



The Bangladesh team finally found some form on the tour of West Indies with Liton Das's (L) 70 taking them to a four-wicket win over UWI Chancellor's XI after Mosaddek Hossain (R) took four for 14 in their warm-up one-dayer at Sabina Park in Jamaica on Thursday.



PHOTO: BCB

Tigers win first match on tour

SPORTS REPORTER



Following a disastrous two-Test series against West Indies, the Bangladesh team will regain some confidence after securing a four-wicket win in a day-night fifty-over warm-up game against UWI Chancellor's XI at Sabina Park on Thursday.

Man-of-the-match Mosaddek Hossain was the pick of the bowlers as the off-spinner bagged four wickets for just 14 runs from his 10 overs and pacer Rubel Hossain took three wickets to restrict UWI Chancellor's XI to a modest 227 for nine in 50 overs.

In reply, the visitors rode on Mushfiqur Rahim's unbeaten 75 and Liton Das's 70 to register a much-needed victory for the

Tigers with 37 balls to spare.

It was not just a warm-up game; there was a festive mood at Sabina Park as cricket organisers arranged a reception to honour two famous Jamaicans, Chris Gayle and former fast bowler Patrick Patterson ahead of the game.

Bangladesh opted to rest Test skipper Shakib Al Hasan, Tamim Iqbal and ODI skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, who just joined the side. Mahmudullah Riyad was named captain for the match.

Electing to bat, UWI were in a spot of bother after losing skipper Chadwick Walton for a duck, after which Gayle and Amir Jangoo added a patient 78-ball 50-run partnership. Mosaddek then dismissed the dangerous Gayle for 29 in his first over.

Andre Russell, who started off his

innings with a six and a four, was undone by Mustafizur Rahman after scoring eleven as the batting side were struggling on 89 for six inside 26 overs.

But Yanick Otley (58) and Kavem Hodge (44) added 91 runs for the seventh wicket to help UWI XI post a respectable total.

In reply, opener Anamul Haque was trapped leg-before by Russell for a duck but Liton and Nazmul Hossain added 90 runs for the second wicket. Liton retired after suffering a blow to his hand when on 41, and Nazmul departed soon afterwards for 43.

Mahmudullah (10), Sabbir Rahman (4) and Mosaddek (11) departed cheaply and made things difficult for Mushfiqur, but Liton resumed his innings after Mosaddek's dismissal.

Liton was eventually dismissed when

just 14 runs were needed to win, but Mushfiqur remained unbeaten to ensure an easy win.

"We had good preparation from the warm-up game, especially my innings where I tried to stay at the wicket as long I could, keeping the main matches in mind. Overall we had a very good outing in all three departments and we will try to continue playing in such a manner in the upcoming series," said Liton.

Bangladesh will take on West Indies in the first of three ODIs in Guyana tomorrow.

Their tour of West Indies has so far been a hugely disappointing one. They lost the first Test in Antigua by an innings and 219 runs -- which included their lowest ever Test score of 43 -- and the second Test in Jamaica by 166 runs.

McKenzie confirmed

SPORTS REPORTER

Former South Africa batsman Neil McKenzie has been appointed the Bangladesh national team's batting consultant, the Bangladesh Cricket Board informed through a press release yesterday.

McKenzie will work with the Tigers up to the end of the 2019 ICC Cricket World Cup in England. The 42-year-old is expected to join the Bangladesh team in Guyana on 24 July. He played 58 Tests, 64 ODIs and two T20Is for South Africa. Since retirement in 2009, McKenzie has twice acted as South Africa's batting consultant.

Zaman leads record-breaking Pak

AFP, Bulawayo



Fakhar Zaman became the first Pakistan player to hit a double century in one-day internationals as they crushed Zimbabwe by 244 runs to go 4-0 up in their one-day series.

Zaman smashed 210 not out from 156 deliveries, moving past the previous record for a Pakistan batsman set by Saeed Anwar with his 194 more than 21 years ago.

That wasn't the only record to tumble. Pakistan's openers blazed a world record 304-run stand, with Imamul Haq hitting 113, the triple hundred partnership becoming Pakistan's biggest for any wicket in ODIs.

It also broke the previous record for an opening stand in all internationals, set by



ZAMAN... 210 not out

Sanath Jayasuriya and Upul Tharanga for Sri Lanka against England at Headingley in 2006.

When the opening partnership was eventually snapped, Asif Ali arrived at the crease and immediately went on the attack, smashing 50 from 22 deliveries to help boost Pakistan to another record: their highest ever total in ODIs.

Zimbabwe were lucky to avoid a few other ignominious records when they were bowled out in the 43rd over for 155.

Zimbabwe's 244-run defeat was their second heaviest in ODIs.

SCORES IN BRIEF

Pakistan: 399 for 1 in 50 overs (Imamul 113, Zaman 210 not out, Asif 50 not out 50)

Zimbabwe: 155 all out in 42.4 overs (Masakadza 22, Chigumbura 37, Tiripano 44; Usman 2-23, Ashraf 2-16, Shadab 4-28)

Result: Pakistan won by 244 runs.x

HIGHEST INDIVIDUAL SCORES					
Player	Runs	Balls	Opposition	Venue	Date
RG Sharma (Ind)	264	173	Sri Lanka	Kolkata	13 Nov 2014
MJ Guptill (NZ)	237*	163	West Indies	Wellington	21 Mar 2015
V Sehwag (Ind)	219	149	West Indies	Indore	8 Dec 2011
CH Gayle (WI)	215	147	Zimbabwe	Canberra	24 Feb 2015
Fakhar Zaman (Pak)	210*	156	Zimbabwe	Bulawayo	20 Jul 2018

HIGHEST OPENING PARTNERSHIPS					
Scores	Players	Oppo	Venue	Date	
304	Fakhar Zaman & Imamul Haq (Pak)	Zim	Bulawayo	July 2018	
286	Upul Tharanga & Sanath Jayasuriya (SL)	Eng	Leeds	July 2006	
284	David Warner & Travis Head (Aus)	Pak	Adelaide	Jan 2017	
282*	Quinton de Kock & Hashim Amla (SA)	BD	Kimberley	Oct 2017	
282	Upul Tharanga & T Dilshan (SL)	Zim	Pallekele	Mar 2011	

Maharaj lords over Sri Lanka

AFP, Colombo



Spinner Keshav Maharaj thanked his lucky stars as well as the pitch on Friday after his record eight-wicket haul helped South Africa fight back on the opening day of the second Test against Sri Lanka.

"I think it was written in the stars by God that things worked out this way," Maharaj said after his 8-116, the best figures for a South African spinner in a first innings anywhere, in addition to his own personal record.

"I think I did get a little bit of assistance off the wicket. It is a little bit different here than in Galle, because the ball skids on. There's a chance of getting LBWs and also the top edge when the batsman sweeps."

At stumps, the hosts were 277 for nine at Colombo's Sinhalese Sports Club Ground, giving the Proteas hope they can avoid their first series defeat to Sri Lanka since 2006 after their drubbing in the first Test in Galle.

The left-arm Maharaj's first eight-for in 22 Tests hurt Sri Lanka with regular strikes after a 116-run opening stand between Danushka Gunathilaka, who hit 57, and Dimuth Karunaratne, who made 53.

Sri Lanka, who won the first Test in Galle, had elected to bat first in their bid to clinch the two-match series. Akila Dananjaya, on 16, and Rangana Herath, on 5, hung on until the close of play.

The islanders started on the right foot with Gunathilaka and Karunaratne mixing caution and aggression to keep the South African bowlers at bay on 93-0 at lunch.

The left-handed duo reached their respective half-centuries just after lunch but fell to Maharaj's guile soon after.

Maharaj, South Africa's only regular spinner, got Karunaratne caught behind with a drifting delivery down the leg side. He got Gunathilaka in his very next over.

And in the last session, he came out all guns blazing as the hosts lost six wickets with only Dhananjaya de Silva putting up some resistance with his 60-run knock.

Paceman Kagiso Rabada was the only other bowler to pick up a wicket, dismissing Roshen Silva for 22.

He hit eight fours in his 109-ball innings before becoming Maharaj's sixth victim, struck in front of the stumps by a drifting and ripping delivery.

Maharaj said though that he was not focused on personal records -- not yet anyway.

"Accolades mean a lot more when you can win a Test match, so hopefully in the second innings I can put in another performance and be on the winning end of it," he said.

SCORES IN BRIEF

Sri Lanka: 277 for 9 (Gunathilaka 57, Karunaratne 53, De Silva 60, Mendis 21, R Silva 22; Maharaj 8-116)



Spinner Keshav Maharaj's (L) maiden eight-for helped South Africa dominate the first day of the second Test against Sri Lanka in Colombo yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

No foreign T20 leagues for Fizz: BCB boss

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh Cricket Board [BCB] president Nazmul Hassan said yesterday that the BCB will not allow Mustafizur Rahman to participate in foreign franchise-based T20 tournaments for next two years.

The BCB boss was reacting to the left-arm seamer missing the T20I series against Afghanistan and the Test series against West Indies after suffering an injury while playing for Mumbai Indians in the last edition of the Indian Premier League.

"I have told him [Mustafizur] that he will not be available [not interested in playing Test cricket. For instance Shakib, he is not interested to play Test cricket and even Mustafizur is not interested. Although he never said that, he tries to avoid it as he is injury-prone and scared of playing Test cricket as it might result in more injuries," he added.

"The wickets in West Indies were seam-friendly with green tops and their bowlers are over six feet seven inches tall. Our players were not prepared to handle bowling from such heights and I think they should have fixed the bowling machine a bit higher while batting in the nets," was Hassan's analysis of the recent Test debacle in West Indies.

The girl who survived and thrived

MOSTAFA SHABUJ from Bogra



On 30 January 1995, a cold winter morning in Bogra, twin babies were born in a private clinic. One of them was still born and the other was in critical condition. The doctor on duty asked the family to pray for the fledgling life and even though most of the family members lost hope as the hours passed, her father Jamil Akhtar did not lose his faith.

The girl who survived has not only repaid her father's unwavering belief but, in a career that started when she was two months shy of her 17th birthday, has rewarded the nation with cricketing achievements. Those deeds have helped transform a women's team that was once also fighting for survival into one currently enjoying robust health.

National off-spinner Khadija Tul Kubra played a central hand in the only major trophy won by a Bangladesh cricket team, male or female, when she took seven wickets in six matches in the victorious Women's T20 Asia Cup campaign in June.

But before cricket, life had been a struggle. Her fight against death in the first hours of her life had left a

mark. Khadija has a deformity in her right ear because her still-born twin sister had put pressure on it in their mother's womb. It was perhaps why she was introverted in school and not attentive in her studies.

But her whole demeanour used to change when she played cricket with her paternal uncles and her brothers in the neighbourhood streets. Her love affair with cricket started at two and a half years of age, but the passion has persisted till today. Khadija's national teammate Rumana Ahmed talked about how her demeanour changes when she enters a cricket field.

"She plays aggressive cricket all

the time. As a bowler, she is always looking for wickets. If she gets a wicket, she fires up the whole team. Her eagerness for cricket has always inspired us. She is always thinking about how the team can improve and how she can perform better in the next match," said Rumana.

Jamil stoked that early passion by buying her tennis balls and cricket bats.

"Khadija was very upset and depressed in her childhood because she looked different. Her grandfather encouraged her to play cricket and dream of the day Khadija would be a big cricketer in the Bangladesh national team. Khadija has fulfilled

that dream," said Jamil.

"My father always tried to understand what was in my mind. He continuously told me 'don't be disappointed my dear, you are not an ordinary girl, you are someone special to me', and these words have inspired me and continue to do so even today," Khadija said.

Jamil was the single greatest influence in her life and along with Khadija's grandfather, genuinely wanted her to pursue her dreams. Ironically, the uncles who first ignited the dream with alley games of cricket were the ones who objected most vehemently when she got the opportunity to play at the division level in 2009-10. They asked why she, being a Muslim girl, should play cricket outside of her home.

But Jamil held firm, knowing that only cricket could keep his daughter happy.

In 2009, Khadija started training under Bogra district coach Muslim Uddin at the Shaheed Chandu Stadium. She was a pace bowler, but the coach switched her to off-spin, a fortuitous decision because for much of her career she has been Bangladesh's best spinner. She played in the Rajshahi Divisional squad the following year and joined Dhaka Abahani at the end of 2010.

She has so far taken 36 wickets from 29 ODIs and 32 wickets in 35

T20Is. She also got the rare honour of being called up by the Women's Big Bash League team Melbourne Stars in Australia, which had her father in tears of joy when Khadija told him.

Her passion is not limited to just playing the game, but extends to the state of the women's game in the country.

"When players are in the national team camp, they get some financial support from the BCB [Bangladesh Cricket Board], but it becomes very difficult to continue with cricket for those who are outside the national team.

"In the dressing room before the Asia Cup final match, we made a decision that whatever the result we would dedicate the match to those girls who struggle outside the national team," Khadija said. "Those who play in the leagues do not get much money. We have already lost many talented girls due to lack of proper opportunities.

"But after winning the Asia Cup, the picture has changed already. Now the BCB has announced lot of facilities for the development of women's cricket," said Khadija.

If the women's game does blossom further in Bangladesh, future generations will be indebted to the passion and perseverance shown by the likes of Khadija.



KHADIJA TUL KUBRA